

REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FINALITY OF OFFICE ACTION

In the previous (final) Office Action, claims 14, 15, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Slocum, and claims 14, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Danisch. In the present Office Action, the rejections over both of these references were withdrawn, *based on the*

amendments made to claim 14. Indeed, the underlined claim language cited at the bottom of page 3 of the present Office Action was the language added to claim 14 after the previous final Office Action.

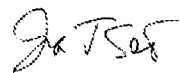
Thus, had the amendments to the claims been entered in the previous application, all claims would not have been finally rejected on the grounds and the art of record; two of the rejections would have been withdrawn, as they were in the present application.

Hence, the finality of the rejection is clearly improper under MPEP 706.07(b), and withdrawal of the finality of the Office Action of July 5, 2007 is requested.

Because this paper is being filed at the conclusion of the statutory period, it is being filed together with a Request for Continued Examination. Should this request to withdraw the finality be granted, the Request for Continued Examination will be unnecessary and improper, and should be withdrawn, and a refund of the RCE fee is requested.

This request for withdrawal was discussed with the Examiner by telephone on January 7, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,



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